

## Your appointment is at Northfield Hospital Campus

(2000 North Avenue)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check in at:

- Women's Health Center
- Hospital Front Desk
- Emergency Department

Diagnostic Imaging is a service of Northfield Hospital + Clinics.

Other Imaging Services include:

- General Radiology (X-ray)
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- PET/CT
- Fluoroscopy
- Diagnostic Ultrasound
- Digital Mammography
- Echocardiography
- Nuclear Medicine
- Bone Densitometry (DEXA)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

For information:

### Diagnostic Imaging

Phone: 507-646-1143

Fax: 507-646-1144

## Clinics, Hospital + Specialty Care

### Farmington Clinic

4645 Knutsen Drive  
Tel: 651-460-2300

### Lakeville Clinic + URGENT CARE

9974 – 214th Street W  
Tel: 952-469-0500

### Lonsdale Clinic

103 15th Avenue SE  
Tel: 507-744-3245

### Northfield Clinic

2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-1494

### Express Care Clinic

706 Division Street  
Tel: 507-646-6700

### Rehabilitation Clinics

#### Lakeville:

9913 214th Street W.  
Tel: 952-985-2020

#### Northfield:

1381 Jefferson Road  
Tel: 507-646-8800

### Women's Health Center

2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-1478

### Orthopedic Services Northfield:

1381 Jefferson Road  
Tel: 507-646-8900

#### Faribault:

1645 Lyndale Ave N #103  
Tel: 507-334-1601

### Faribault Clinic - ENT

1645 Lyndale Ave N.  
Tel: 952-469-0500

### Cancer Care & Infusion Center

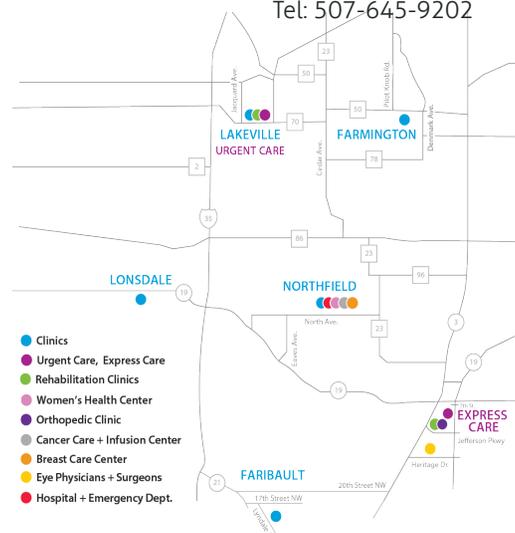
2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-6979

### Breast Care Center

2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-1143

### Northfield Eye Physicians + Surgeons

2019 Jefferson Road  
Tel: 507-645-9202



# Nuclear Medicine Testing

What you need to know about  
Nuclear Medicine Testing

# What is a Nuclear Medicine Testing?

Nuclear Medicine Testing uses radioactive materials to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of diseases and disorders.

A radioactive compound is given by injection into a vein, through inhalation, or by swallowing. Different compounds are used to study specific parts of the body. The compound travels through the body, giving off gamma rays (invisible radiation). The gamma rays make it possible to show the location of the compound in the body. Special equipment, called a gamma camera, detects the gamma rays and records pictures or images of the part of the body that is being studied. A computer may enhance these images and make them easier to interpret. Cameras that are rotated with the aid of a computer are sometimes used to produce three-dimensional images of the body.

## Preparing for your exam

- You should continue to take prescription medicines on schedule—unless your provider has instructed you differently.
- Depending on which part of your body is to be studied, you may be put on a special diet or you may be asked to not eat, or drink fluids for up to eight hours before your exam.

- Your friend or family member is welcome to stay in the waiting room.
- You may be asked to undress, put on a hospital gown, pajama bottoms, and remove any jewelry or other items that may interfere with the image. While sweat suits or jogging clothes are recommended, a gown will still be provided, as needed

## What to expect

Nuclear medicine testing is slightly different for each type of scan. However, the process of most tests is similar to the following example for the lung scan.

Most commonly used to detect blood clots in the lungs, lung scans are done in two parts.

- You breathe in a radioactive aerosol while images are taken by the gamma camera, visualizing the air supply to the lungs.
- Radioactive albumin is injected into your blood stream while images are taken by the gamma camera, visualizing the blood supply to the lungs. Many consider Bone Scan example or a Hida as it is more routinely performed and easier to explain.

## Is the procedure safe?

Yes. Nuclear medicine procedures are safe. Facilities, equipment, and materials must meet

strict safety standards. All staff members are experienced, highly-trained, and safety-conscious. Every precaution is taken to minimize your exposure to radiation, with only small quantities being used for diagnosis. Drugs lose most of their radioactivity with hours and are usually eliminated quickly from the body. There may be some risk with any procedure that exposes you to radiation.

Some procedures are limited during pregnancy and breast-feeding, so please alert your provider if this applies to you.

## Results

The radiologist will review the images and send a report to your provider in 2 to 3 business days, but can take as long as a week. Your provider will inform you of the results. You may also view your report online through **MyHealth Info** available three business days after the exam has been read by the radiologist.

## Scheduling appointments or questions

Please call the Diagnostic Imaging Department Scheduler at 507-646-1143 to schedule or change an appointment, or if you have questions.